

IN THE TITLE

Please amend the title to read as follows:

-- BANDING SYSTEM INCLUDING AN INTERNAL
BACKING MEMBER FOR WRAPPING AN ELONGATED
ARTICLE SUCH AS A STACK OF INTERFOLDED PAPER
TOWELS --.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At the top of page 1, please insert:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION
This application is a continuation of application Serial No.
10/206,506 filed July 26, 2002. --

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-28.

Please add new claims 29-39 as follows.

-- 29. An apparatus for wrapping an elongated article, comprising:
an advancing mechanism engaged with the elongated article, wherein the
advancing mechanism is operable to advance the elongated article in a direction along a
longitudinal axis defined by the elongated article;
a web supply arrangement for supplying one or more webs or wrapping
material;
a web application arrangement for applying the one or more webs of
wrapping material to the elongated article so as to form an overlapping area of the
wrapping material;

a bonding arrangement for bonding the overlapping area of the one or more webs together to secure the one or more webs about the elongated article, wherein the bonding arrangement includes an internal backing member located adjacent the elongated article and underlying the overlapping area of the one or more webs, and a pressure application arrangement that bears against the internal backing member to secure the overlapping area of the one or more webs together.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the bonding arrangement includes an adhesive application arrangement that applies an adhesive between the overlapping area of the one or more webs as the one or more webs are applied to the elongated article.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the web supply arrangement is configured and arranged to apply first and second webs of wrapping material about the elongated article.

32. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the web supply arrangement is configured and arranged to supply one or more continuous webs of wrapping material about the elongated article.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the web supply arrangement is configured and arranged to apply first and second continuous webs of wrapping material about the elongated article.

34. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the internal backing member comprises a cantilevered internal backing plate mounted downstream of the web application arrangement and extending in an upstream direction toward the web application arrangement so as to underlie the overlapping area of the one or more webs as

the one or more webs are formed about the elongated article.

35. A method of wrapping an elongated article, comprising the steps of:
advancing the elongated article in a direction along a longitudinal axis
defined by the elongated article;
supplying at least one web of wrapping material to a web application
arrangement;
applying the at least one web of wrapping material about the elongated
article via the web application arrangement such so as to form an overlapping area; and
securing the overlapping area of the at least one web together by applying
adhesive between the overlapping area, and applying pressure on the overlapping area
against an internal backing member located between the elongated article and the
overlapping area.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of applying at least one web
of wrapping material comprises applying first and second webs of wrapping material to
form a pair of overlapping areas that are secured together.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the step of applying first and second
webs of wrapping material is carried out by continuously supplying the first and second
webs of wrapping material.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the step of securing the overlapping
area of the at least one web together includes compressing the elongated article
subsequent to application of pressure to the overlapping area of the at least one web of
wrapping material for a duration sufficient to enable the adhesive to set.